



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 17-015: OAK CREEK WILDLIFE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description of Proposal:

This is a new management plan for the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. Over the next 10 years the plan will direct management activities on the following wildlife area units:

1. Oak Creek Creek (48,990 acres)
2. Cowiche (7,683 acres)
3. Rock Creek (10,386 acres)

Proposed uses include recreation and wildlife conservation; elk winter feeding, protection and restoration of shrub-steppe, forest and riparian habitat. There are 4 grazing permits. Examples of management activities under this plan include: ecological integrity monitoring, weed management, land acquisitions, seasonal road closures to protect wildlife, road maintenance, species surveys, managing wildlife near high use recreation areas, maintaining winter feeding sites, monitoring bighorn sheep, coordinating with partners on salmon recovery projects, maintaining fishing opportunities, upgrading facilities to meet ADA standards, developing a plan to reduce dispersed camping along riparian areas.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Lauri Vigue
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-2549
Lauri.Vigue@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any:

- Oak Creek Unit (Yakima County)
 - Headquarters is located 7 miles west of Naches along US Highway 12
 - T14N R 15E; T14N R16E; T15N R15E; T15N R16 E
- Cowiche Unit (Yakima County)
 - Located south of the Oak Creek Unit, 11 miles west of Yakima.
 - T14N R16E; T13N R16E; T13N R17E
- Rock Creek Unit (Kittitas County)
 - Rock Creek Unit is located 20 miles northwest of Naches off State Route 410.
 - T17N R15E

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental

checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 30 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on May 11, 2017**.

Method of Comment: The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: April 11, 2017

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 17-015.dns